

ART. IV.—*An Experiment to shew how the Earth is made
to Gravitate towards the Sun.*

By T. WAKELIN.

ART. V.—*The Rabbit Question.*

By H. C. WIGG, M.D. Ed., F.R.C.S. Eng.

[Read March 8, 1888.]

The loss and even desolation caused in many parts of this country by the excessive multiplication of rabbits, and the great reward of £25,000 offered by New South Wales for their extirpation, have induced many efforts to discover a cure for the plague.

Of these the most important has been that of M. Pasteur; but his proposed remedy is so uncertain, and at the same time contains such elements of danger, that I have thought it right, as a matter of urgency, to direct the attention of the Royal Society to the subject.

He has discovered that a certain virulent epidemic disease found in France and parts of the Continent, and called the fowl cholera, can be easily communicated to rabbits, and with fatal effect. The poison of this disease he intends to scatter broadcast throughout the colonies, hoping in this manner to destroy the rabbits everywhere.

It is this scheme, the prospects of its success, and the grave risks attending it, that we have to consider to-night.

His plan is to obtain the microbe, which is the effective cause of the disease, to cultivate it in properly prepared infusions, until he has multiplied each single particle of the poison into hundreds of millions, and then to spread it over the ground or over food prepared for the rabbits. The microbe is a living being, extremely minute, and found in